

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

- 1-20. (Cancelled).
21. (Currently amended) A method of screening for identifying a compound that decreases binding between a protein comprising a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Seq ID NO:1 and the protein's polypeptide's receptor expressed on B cells, the method comprising contacting said protein polypeptide and said B cell receptor in the presence of a test compound, where a decrease in binding of the protein polypeptide to the receptor, compared to that which would occur in the absence of said test compound, indicates said test compound decreases the binding of the protein polypeptide and the receptor.
22. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein the protein comprises a polypeptide comprises having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
23. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein the protein polypeptide is a trimer.
24. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein the protein polypeptide is a homotrimer.
25. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein the protein polypeptide is a trimer.
26. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein the protein polypeptide is a homotrimer.
- 27-36. (Cancelled).